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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

Attorney Docket No.

From: EDWARD P. GAMSON, ESQ.

Date: January 7, 2000

To:

Examiner Davis
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Number of pages including this cover letter: 18

COMMENTS: Please bring to Examiner Davis at Group 1642.

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this Information Disclosure Statement, together with the stated enclosures are being transmitted via facsimile to the attention of Examiner Davis at (703) 308-4426, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. on January 7, 2000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric B. Lasson". The signature is written in a cursive style with some variations in letter height and thickness.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, a list of documents is disclosed on the attached Form PTO-1449 that may be material to the examination of this application.

Documents A1-A47, B1-B29, C2-C10 and D1-D3 are patents and published papers that are cited, discussed, and provided in the co-pending applications, U.S. Patent Application No. 08/785,997, filed on January 21, 1997, U.S. Patent Application No. 08/788,882, filed January 21, 1997, of which last application ('882) this is a Continuation, and U.S. Patent No. 08/934,367, filed on September 19, 1997. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d), it is understood that only a list of art is required

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inasmuch as the listed art has been provided and discussed previously.

Also, enclosed as Exhibit A is a copy of the International Search Report for the PCT application corresponding to the co-pending application U.S. Patent No. 08/934,367, filed on September 19, 1997. As is shown on its face, that Report was mailed on January 29, 1999. The art accompanying the report is also listed, but not enclosed inasmuch as it has already been provided.

No inferences should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any material disclosed is equivalent to the subject invention. In addition, none of the documents that have publication dates prior to the priority date of the above application anticipate the invention in this application.

The cited documents disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to list each and every feature disclosed by each document. The Examiner is requested to review the documents and determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures with respect to the present invention.

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The discussion of any art and the citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, and/or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and documents recited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

The recitation herein of the art and documents is not to be construed as an assertion that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Edward P. Gamson, Reg. No. 29,381

Enclosures:
Form PTO-1449